



Sen. Joyce Mulliken's

UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

1/31/03

Sen. Joyce Mulliken
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Committee Assignments

Land Use & Planning (Chair)
Highways & Transportation
Higher Education
Commerce & Trade

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, Feb. 3

3:30 pm: Land Use & Planning Committee, SHR 3:
(*) Public hearing on SB 5472

Wednesday, Feb. 5

8:00 am: Joint House and Senate Commerce & Trade Committees, HHR A:
Reports and comments on minimum wage law.

Thursday, Feb. 6

1:30 pm: Land Use & Planning, SHR 3: (**) Public hearing on SB 5307

8:00 am: Commerce & Trade Committee, SHR 4: Public hearing on several minimum wage laws, including SB 5013 which caps the minimum wage at 136.2% of the federal rate.

Dear Friends,

In an effort to give you more time should you wish to attend or submit written testimony before Senate committee hearings, I'm going to try and send you the "Update from Olympia" on Fridays. I hope you find it useful and informative.

I'm excited to report to you that the committee I chair, the Senate Land Use and Planning Committee, approved three bills at yesterday's hearing:

SB 5282 – will eliminate growth management hearings boards

SB 5308 – will restrict growth management hearings board review of plan and regulation compliance to adoption actions only

SB 5354 – will require that growth management hearings boards and courts give deference to decisions made by cities and counties, and raises the standard of review to arbitrary and capricious

I have two bills that will receive public hearings in my committee next week.

(*) **SB 5472** – This bill gives a property tax break to landowners who have had their property devalued by shoreline management rules. I think if the state's actions cause a loss in property value, the state should forfeit some of its collections.

(**) **SB 5307** – This bill requires local governments to provide project permits in a timely manner. Delayed permits have a wide impact on our local economy. We need some stability and predictability in our permitting process.

Also, I'm pleased to announce I will be hosting a weekly brownbag lunch with the governor's office, the business community, state agencies and other legislators to study land use issues. The purpose is to bring the six state agencies involved in land use together and look for conflicting or duplicitous rules that are costing money. We hope to have a legislative solution by the end of session to help bring costs down.

Again, please contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have. It is a pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joyce Mulliken, 13th Legislative District

From the Small Business Administration Office:

The President's economic plan will create jobs and growth in Washington State. It increases the amount of equipment purchases a small business can immediately expense, rather than depreciate over time, from \$25,000 to \$75,000. This new amount is permanent and indexed for inflation. This is a major incentive for small firms to invest in new capital equipment.

In Washington State, there are 195,248 small businesses. If due to the President's plan on average they increased their equipment purchases by only \$10,000, nearly \$2 billion would be pumped into the state's economy annually, creating jobs and expanding the tax base. More importantly, the state would reap the reward of having significantly higher investments in equipment at a time when capital spending has remained stagnant nationwide, causing a drag on our recovering economy.